

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 SAJ-01 ACDA-07 /057 W

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R 041020Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO 1SECSTATE WASHDC 3224

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T COPENHAGEN 2953

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, DA

SUBJECT: DR. MALCOLM CURRIE'S BRIEFING OF
DANISH DEFENSE OFFICIALS

REFS: (A) STATE 210362, (B) STATE 212603

BEGIN SUMMARY: ON SEPT 3 DR. CURRIE BRIEFED DANISH MOD
OFFICIALS, AS WELL AS KEY FOLKETING DEFENSE COMMITTEE
MEMBERS ON SOVIET THREAT. END SUMMARY.

1. AT REQUEST OF MINDEF ORLA MOLLER, DR. CURRIE (DIRECTOR
OF DOD RD&E), CAME TO COPENHAGEN TO GIVE EXTENSIVE BRIEFING
ON ALLIED AND WARAW PACK TECHNOLOGICAL AND MILITARY
CAPABILITIES. MOLLER HAD INVITED SELECTED MEMBERS
OF THE "GROUP OF 12" (THE FOLKETING DEFENSE
COMMITTEE, MINUS THE FAR LEFT);
CHIEF OF DEFENSE LT. GEN. BLIXENKRONE-MOLLER
AND HIS STAFF; AND AMBASSADOR DEAN AND EMBOFFS. IN ADDITION, ALL
SENIOR OFFICIALS OF MOD WERE WERE PRESENT. FORMER PRIMIN POUL
HARTLING, CHAIRMAN OF DEFENSE COMMITTEE ARNE CHRISTIANSEN, AND
FORMER MINDEF ERIK NINN-HANSEN REPRESENTED GROUP OF 12.
UNFORTUNATELY, THOSE LESS COMMITTED TO A STRONG DEFENSE
POLICY DID NOT ACCEPT INVITATION.

2. DR. CURRIE GAVE FULL BRIEFING, SIMILAR TO ONE HE PROVIDED
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MOLLER IN WASHINGTON LAST MONTH. IN QUESTION PERIOD

CHRISTIANSEN NOTED THAT SITUATION WAS PERHAPS EVEN MORE PESSIMISTIC THAN PAINTED BY DR. CURRIE, INASMUCH AS EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WERE DEVOTING MORE EFFORT TO DEFENSE THAN THOSE IN WESTERN EUROPE. IN OTHER WORDS, THE BALANCE BETWEEN THE US AND THE SOVIETS, AS EXPLAINED BY DR. CURRIE, WOULD BE EVEN LESS IN OUR FAVOR IF THE OTHER MEMBERS OF NATO AND THE WARSAW PACT WERE INCLUDED. DR. CURRIE FELT THAT THIS MAY BE SO.

3. HARTLING ASKED WHERE JAPAN FITTED INTO THE PICTURE. CURRIE REPLIED THAT THE STATE OF JAPANESE TECHNOLOGY WAS EXCELLENT, BUT INASMUCH AS IT WAS PRIMARILY DEVOTED TO CIVILIAN PURPOSES THERE WAS A GREAT DEAL OF DANGER OF LEAKAGE TO WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY IN COMPUTER FIELD.

4. MOLLER POINTED OUT THE LONG-RANGE DANGER POSED BY THE SUFFICIENT INDUSTRIAL BUILD-UP IN RUSSIA IN MILITARY-TYPE PRODUCTION. CURRIE AGREED THIS INDUSTRIAL MOMENTUM WAS INDEED A SERIOUS PROBLEM.

5. IN REPLY TO A COMMENT ABOUT THE INCREASE IN THE RUSSIAN SHIP-BUILDING PROGRAM IN THE BALTIC, CURRIE NOTED ALSO THE SOVIET BUILD-UP IN THE KOLA PENINSULA REGION.

6. FINALLY, REFERENCE WAS MADE TO AN ARTICLE IN LEADING COPENHAGEN DAILY "BERLINGSKE TIDENDE" (INDEPENDENT- CONSERVATIVE) OF SEPT 3 CONCERNING DISRUPTION OF RADIO SIGNALS TO GREENLAND BY SOUNDS EMANATING FROM SOVIET COMMUNICATIONS STATION IN KIEV. CURRIE HAD NOT HEARD OF THIS BEFORE BUT PROMISED TO LOOK INTO IT.

7. IN CONCLUDING THE MEETING, MOLLER THANK CURRIE FOR HIS "EXCELLENT PRESENTATION" WHICH HE SAID WOULD BE USEFUL TO ALL THOSE PRESENT, BOTH CIVIL SERVANTS AND POLITICIANS. DISCUSSION CONTINUED THROUGH LUNCH, AFTER WHICH CURRIE EXPLAINED AWACS PROGRAM TO DIFFERENT GROUP OF DANISH DEFENSE OFFICIALS (REPORTED SEPT 10).

8. COMMENT: MEETING OF GROUP OF 12 WAS HELD IMMEDIATELY
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FURTHER, IN MOLLER'S OFFICE. WE FEEL, THEREFORE, THAT TIMING OF CURRIE'S VISIT COULD NOT HAVE BEEN BETTER, AND THAT EVEN THOUGH NUMBER OF POLITICAL LEADERS WHO HEARD PRESENTATION WAS LIMITED, EFFECTS WILL BE POSITIVE, AS GROUP NOW MOVES INTO INTENSIVE DEBATE OF NEW DEFENSE AGREEMENT. CURRIE HAD FURTHER CHANCE TO DISCUSS SITUATION WITH CHIEF OF DEFENSE AND HIS STAFF AT WORKING DINNER HOSTED BY AMBASSADOR LAST NIGHT.

9. THIS MESSAGE WAS CLEARED BY DR. CURRIE.
DEAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATIONAL SECURITY, ALLIANCE, MILITARY CAPABILITIES, BRIEFINGS, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976COPENH02953
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760336-0679
From: COPENHAGEN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760990/aaaaczjd.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 210362, 76 STATE 212603
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 APR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <06 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DR. MALCOLM CURRIE'S BRIEFING OF DANISH DEFENSE OFFICIALS
TAGS: PFOR, MILI, DA, WTO, (CURRIE, MALCOM)
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006